



# THE BULLETIN BOARD

Vol. 39, No. 3 Official Publication of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association Spring, 2008



**Ralph D. Ayres**  
IRTA Executive Director

The Indiana General Assembly completed its work before the midnight deadline on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. With tax reform and restructuring dominating the discussion during the “short session” and the weakness of state revenues and our national economy, the members of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association should be elated with the passage of a number of new laws initiated by our organization.

The most important piece of legislation for retired educators was signed into law by the governor on March 25, 2008. Our annual COLA proposal will grant a

## COLA Bill Signed by Governor Daniels!

2% increase in TRF benefits for those who retired before July 2, 2000, and a 1% increase for those who retired after July 1, 2000, and before July 2, 2006. It also increases the minimum monthly disability benefit from \$100 to \$180. Considering this was not a budget year, it is a major accomplishment for the IRTA and its members to have this new increase go in effect with the February TRF check in 2009. With many states not granting a COLA to retired educators, we continue to be the strong voice for increasing pension benefits for retired educators in Indiana!

We had an ambitious agenda this session and in addition to the COLA increase, other important initiatives were signed into law. Senate Enrolled Act 51 reduced the waiting period for reemployment from the present 90 to 30 days for retirees from TRF. This also eliminated the \$35,000 salary cap for those who retire from TRF and are employed in a PERF provision. Remember, last year we eliminated the cap for TRF retirees that are reemployed in a TRF position.

Senate Enrolled Act 72 allows

a person upon retirement who had been in TRF and PERF during their career to choose which fund from which they wish to retire. Senate Enrolled Act 210 corrects a 2007 law, so that Indiana will now allow a change of beneficiary as a result of divorce no matter what state issued the order.

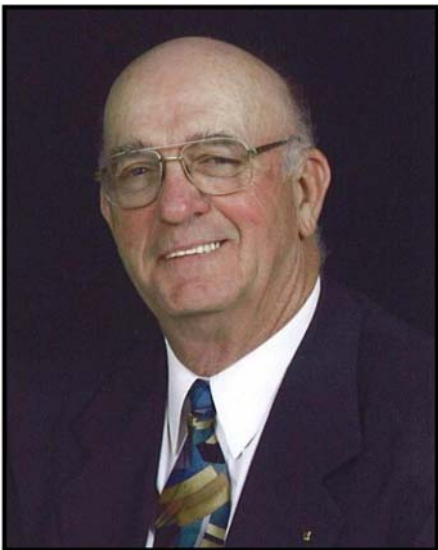
Remember, our slogan is “Success Builds Success.” I firmly believe the Indiana Retired Teachers Association will continue to fight for improvements in legislation that will increase benefits for retired educators and improve pension law to make it easier for those who retire and want or need to re-enter the workforce.

We are hopeful that PMOC will recommend a minimum benefit for our older retired educators who have very low monthly pensions. IRTA will also continue to press for the expansion of military service credit eligibility for TRF members.

Special thanks to Rep. Dennis Avery (D-Evansville) and Senator Bob Meeks (R-LaGrange) for shepherding the COLA bill through the 2008 Session!

### IN THIS ISSUE

President’s Message and Calendar .....	Page 2
R.A. Featured Speaker Lily Lui and Florida Luncheon Review .....	Page 3
Interview with Rogers Dunn of CASA .....	Page 4
2008 IRTA Foundation Golf Scramble Registration .....	Page 7



## President's Message by Eugene Wease

It's spring again and I am looking forward to the new challenges facing us in 2008. This has been a very positive year for our legislative agenda and I believe that our leadership has laid the foundation for us to move into the long session with increased opportunities to continue to improve our benefits. Ralph's leadership has been invaluable and on behalf of all of us, I thank him for his skillful direction and dedication. Nancy Tolson would show up at the Statehouse on a moment's notice and we thank her for speaking on behalf of all of us.

Welcome to those of you who responded to our travel survey in the last issue! IRTA is creating a tour mailing list for those interested in travel opportunities and will be sending out information to this group as it becomes available. If you want to receive mailings about travel, please take a minute to return the survey to me. You can check our web site to find out what is happening in the IRTA travel agenda.

Jeanne and I have just completed our CASA training and are really impressed with the training and scope of this program. It certainly fits well with what we have spent our life doing and the opportunity to continue to help young people feels right for us. There were five retired teachers in our class and that also was a nice response to our statewide project. I encourage all of you who have time to volunteer to call your local CASA office and learn about the difference this program is making in the lives of foster children. There is a critical shortage of volunteer advocates and my hope is that IRTA members can help alleviate some of this need.

As another school year is coming to an end, please remember to reach out to the new retirees and invite them to join your local organization as well as IRTA. Your response to getting associate members last year was great and I encourage you to continue talking to those close to retirement about the benefits of belonging to IRTA. Our organization is about making a difference for ourselves and future retirees, and sharing the benefits of membership is certainly one of the best things you can do for a friend and fellow educator.

The Representative Assembly is fast approaching and we are hoping for the largest attendance ever. The Board is working to make it a socially enjoyable and meaningful day. So mark your calendars for May 21<sup>st</sup>, get a group of your friends together and join us in Indianapolis. Our guest speaker will be Lily Liu from the NRTA office and I believe you will leave with a new understanding of why and how our organization came to be. It takes all of us to make IRTA a strong and dynamic organization and the Board needs your input and assistance.

Cordially,  
Gene

## CALENDAR

### Executive Director Speaking Schedule

April 14	Cass County
April 15	Southeast Division
April 21	Tipton County
May 1	Grant County
May 8	Porter County
June 3	Pulaski County
June 13	Greene County
June 23	Knox County

If your local RTA would like to have **Ralph Ayres** speak at your meeting, please contact IRTA.

### **Representative Assembly**

Wednesday, May 21  
Primo Banquet Hall South  
Indianapolis, IN

### **Presidents/Local Leaders Workshop**

Wednesday, July 9

### **Mini State Committee Workshop**

Thursday, July 10  
Clarion Waterfront Plaza  
Indianapolis, IN

### **11th IRTA Golf Scramble**

Monday, July 28  
Smock Golf Club  
Indianapolis, IN

*THE BULLETIN BOARD* (USPS 393-150) is the quarterly publication of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association  
150 W. Market Street, Suite 610  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2812.

Subscription price of \$2 included in membership dues.

Subscriptions to members only.  
Periodicals Postage paid at  
Indianapolis, IN

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Bulletin Board,  
IRTA

150 W. Market Street  
Suite 610  
Indianapolis IN 46204-2812

# AARP's Lily Liu to address IRTA's Representative Assembly

**Lily Liu** serves as AARP Brand Communications Manager. She will be the featured speaker at the IRTA Representative Assembly, to be held May 21, 2008, in Indianapolis.

Lily joined the AARP Brand Department after holding the position of AARP History Consultant — a role that she interpreted as AARP Historian and Archivist — for five years in the RIC Library, Knowledge Management Department, Membership Group. The majority of Lily's career at AARP has been spent in AARP's Communications Group, including positions as a speechwriter for the Executive Director and the Board of Directors, during which time she was the lead Speechwriter for AARP's first African-American President, Dr. Margaret Dixon, a retired educator; as the award-winning editor of *Inside AARP*, the staff newsletter, for three years; and as Volunteer Resource Education Specialist in AARP's Volunteer Center for one year.

Lily is also Co-Lead for the Asian-American Employee Resource Group, a staff affinity group at AARP. A native Hoosier from Bloomington, she is the daughter of two retired educators originally from China.



## IRTA's January Florida Luncheons Well Attended

As always, the IRTA Florida Luncheons were a great pleasure to attend. The local hosts put in countless hours of preparation, and it showed: each of the three Luncheons had great turnout and each were very enjoyable. Attendees reconnected with old friends and made new ones, and renewed Hoosier ties. Given the ever-increasing attendance, we are optimistic that turnout will be even greater next year.



The Fort Myers Luncheon, hosted by **Phyllis Wayco (chair)** and **Mary Lou Cooper-Seramur**, was held at the Olde Hickory Golf & Country Club. It was a beautiful, sunny Florida day. **Jan Hickel** made the festive tropical table decorations and helped with the registration. A beautiful hand-carved and painted wood bird, donated by the late **Lloyd Fleetwood**, was won by **Ruth Elrod**. The Luncheon raised \$229 for the IRTA Foundation. Former IRTA Executive Director **Dale Harris** provided golf cart rides at the Club.

The Tampa Luncheon, hosted by **Bettie Wickersham**, was held at Sam Seltzer's Steakhouse. Thanks to Bettie's warm, cordial demeanor, the atmosphere was relaxed and fun. Bettie also provided great door prizes. Bettie asked each person attending to introduce themselves and speak briefly on their educational background, which broke the ice and got everyone engaged and involved. A number of non-member guests and first-time attendees joined us, and a great time was had by all.



The Leesburg Luncheon was co-chaired by **Peggy and Richard Cowen** and **Kenneth and Jean Blad**. The Luncheon was held at Vic's Embers Supper Club—due to the unexpected and unannounced closing of the Dixie Shrimp House, which was the restaurant at which reservations had been made long prior to the Luncheon. The sudden change of location, while causing a last-minute scramble by Peggy to make new arrangements, did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants. Kudos to Peggy for putting together an excellent Luncheon despite the obstacles.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2009 Florida Luncheons! - Ralph Ayres

## **IRTA Partners with Indiana CASA to Help Children in Need**

### **Interview with Leslie Dunn, State Director of the Indiana CASA Program**

#### **Q: What is CASA?**

A: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are trained community volunteers who are the voice of abused and neglected children in court. A CASA volunteer spends time getting to know the child so the volunteer can provide information to the court about how the child is doing and what the child's needs and wishes are while they are in foster care. The CASA also helps the child to understand what is happening in the case. The CASA typically has the most contact with the child of anyone involved in the case and, therefore, is in the best position to make recommendations to the court about what is in the child's best interests. The CASA helps to protect the child's safety and well-being and advocates for the child to have a safe and permanent home as quickly as possible. CASA volunteers have made significant differences in foster children's lives in many ways, such as by helping the children get counseling or other services, helping them to understand the importance of staying in school, and making sure they have contact with their siblings and other family members. Foster children often have a lot educational needs that are not being addressed, which makes retired teachers, who are already familiar with education issues, ideal advocates for foster children!

#### **Q: What's involved in the training?**

A: CASA volunteers receive a thorough training program that consists of at least 30 hours of initial training, as well as yearly in-service training to stay up to date on legal and policy changes. In the training, volunteers learn about how child abuse and neglect cases progress from key players in the system—judges, lawyers, social workers, court personnel and others. CASA volunteers also learn effective advocacy techniques for children, and are educated about specific topics ranging from seminars on child sexual abuse to discussions on early childhood development and adolescent behavior. After completion of the initial training, volunteers are sworn in as "officers of the court." The CASA volunteer is then authorized to research the child's situation, interview people, obtain records and make recommendations to the court about what is in the child's best interest.

#### **Q: Can you tell us about CASA's work here in Indiana?**

A: Indiana has one of the largest and strongest CASA networks of any state in the country. Indiana has volunteer CASA programs in 67 counties with over 2,100 volunteers. Last year, volunteers spoke for 7,300 children in newly filed abuse and neglect cases. Unfortunately, in those counties with CASA programs, there are over 3,100 children on a waiting list who do not have a CASA volunteer to speak for them in court because there is not one available. Clearly, there is a great need for more help. That's why we were so incredibly grateful for IRTA's efforts to promote volunteerism in the CASA program! In fact, IRTA President Eugene Wease and his wife Jeanne have both completed their training and are ready to go to work helping children through the CASA program. I hope you will consider this opportunity to make a difference in the life of a child and in doing so, to enhance your own as well.



Front row, left to right: 17-year-old CASA-served youth Amanda and her volunteer from Gibson County CASA,Carolynn Butts. Back row, left to right: Representative Sheila Klinker (D-Lafayette); Representative Dennis Avery (D-Evansville); Governor Mitch Daniels; National CASA Chief Communications Officer Jim Clune; Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall Shepard; IRTA Executive Director Ralph Ayres; IRTA President-Elect Nancy Tolson; IRTA President Eugene Wease; Indiana state GAL/CASA Director Leslie S. Dunn. Photo by Indiana CASA.

**For more information on volunteering in Indiana:  
1-800-542-0813 or [www.in.gov/judiciary/galcasa](http://www.in.gov/judiciary/galcasa)**



# APPLE BYTES



IRTA President **Eugene Wease** and his wife **Jeanne** have completed their CASA training. Kudos to Gene and Jeanne for leading IRTA by example! Their dedication to this worthy project is to be commended.

IRTA Associate members **Sally Simpson** and **Sue Harness**, Turkey Run Elementary fourth grade teachers, have big plans for the summer: they are heading to the Amazon rainforest. The pair are the recipients of a Teacher Creativity Fellowship which will enable them to make the trip to Peru. During their visit, they will canoe to and observe a day in the life of a Peruvian student; participate in fishing, hikes, animal treks and dolphin sightings; take the Canopy Walkway at the Amazon Conservatory of Tropical Studies to view the canopy layer of the 250,000 acre rainforest. Another part of their trip will include a five-day Riverboat Cruise down the Amazon River. Special thanks to IRTA Board Member Roleen Pickard for this item.

**IRTA GIVES ONE MILLION VOLUNTEER HOURS!**  
For the fourth consecutive year, IRTA members have donated over one million hours of community service volunteer work!

## AARP Celebrates 50 Years

Did you know that AARP was started by NRTA (National Retired Teachers Association) founder **Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus**? The 60th anniversary of NRTA: *AARP's Educator Community* is an important milestone and provides an opportunity to reflect on our rich past and look to our shared future. It was in 1947 that NRTA founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, created NRTA as a national organization to address the economic challenges and health insurance needs of educators in retirement. She also brought an element of fun to NRTA as evidenced by her support for membership travel programs and conferences. Many people aren't aware that in 1958, eleven years after forming NRTA, Dr. Andrus founded AARP so others could have the benefits of an organization working to provide a secure future for older adults.

**AARP has scheduled a number of activities and events in connection with their fiftieth anniversary this year. For further info, contact AARP Indiana toll-free at 866-448-3618 or view their website at [www.aarp.org/states/in](http://www.aarp.org/states/in).**



IRTA member **James Lee Hutchinson** has authored the book *Through These Eyes: A World War II Eighth Air Force Combat Diary*. Hutchinson attended the reading of a resolution in his honor at the Statehouse during the 2008 Session. The resolution was presented by Senator Brent Steele (R-Bedford) and Representative Eric Koch (R-Bedford). Hutchinson is pictured above with Senator Steele, together with his wife and daughter. A copy of this book has been placed in the Library of Congress as part of U.S. Senator Richard Lugar's World War II Veterans' History Project. The book is available at bookstores or on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Congratulations, James!

## COLA FACTS

### Who Will Receive One?

**If you retired before July 2, 2000, you will receive a two percent increase in your pension; and if you retired after July 1, 2000, and before July 2, 2006, you'll receive an increase of one percent.**

### When Will You Receive It?

**You will see these increases reflected in your February 2009 pension check!**

# **IRTA Foundation and Memorial Contributions**

## **From December 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008**

### **FUND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Mary Boone, Schererville, IN  
Richard Bowman, Speedway, IN  
Pat Burden, Tipton, IN  
Deana Cash, Lowell, IN  
Jim Cierzniak, Mishawaka, IN  
Janice Custer, Chesterton, IN  
Wynnie Ford, Converse, LA  
Paula Griesel, Bloomington, IN  
Dellarose Gustin, Anderson, IN

Sue Hersberger, Ridgeville, IN  
Luke Kenley, Noblesville, IN  
Pamela Kesling, Indianapolis, IN  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Lambert,  
Rapid City, SD  
John Lewis IV, Seymour, IN  
Mary Ann Ley, Yorktown, IN  
Virginia McKibben, LaGrange, IN  
Alice Morton, Indianapolis, IN

Diane Murray, Indianapolis, IN  
Robert & Sybil Neel, Hartford City, IN  
Roleen Pickard, Rockville, IN  
Joseph Scher, Fishers, IN  
Bill & Helen Sturbaum,  
Bloomington, IN  
Don & Eden Thompson, Mesa, AZ  
Beatrice Wehrly, Macomb, IL  
Lois Weir, Indianapolis, IN

### **MEMORIALS**

Diana May Alfrey, Hartford City, IN  
Anna Arnholt-Taylor,  
Elizabethtown, IN  
Florence I. Bond, Hammond, IN  
Jacqueline Brammer, Madison County  
Mary Gladys Reeder Carter,  
Newburgh, IN  
William Case, Vincennes, IN  
Mary E. Cedars, Kokomo, IN  
Reva L. Clancy-Blessing, Pittsboro, IN  
Arnold "Babe" Corder, Deltona, FL  
Deceased Members of Shelby County  
Mildred Donovan, Henry County  
Marie A. Edwards, LaPorte, IN  
Faith D. Ellison, Rushville, IN  
Marian V. Fairbairn, Munster, IN  
Maxine Felling, Terre Haute, IN

Doris Fulp, Columbus, IN  
Dale Griesel, Crown Point, IN  
Jean Guion, Alexandria, IN  
Wilhelmina Harrison, Kingman, IN  
Rosemary Heater, Daphne, AL  
Jo Ann Heitler, Indianapolis, IN  
Anna Hufnagel, Vincennes, IN  
Ernest C. Hurt, Highland, IN  
Ruth M. Jackson, Amo, IN  
Nancy Mosier Johnson, Munster, IN  
William "Coach" Kukoy, Gary, IN  
Annelle Libs, Ferdinand, IN  
H. David Locke, Noblesville, IN  
Betty Lyons, Greenfield, IN  
Jim McKibben, LaGrange, IN  
Melba Mefford, Orleans, IN  
Les Milby, Lake County

Glen Milligan, Terre Haute, IN  
Sylvia Morris, Indianapolis, IN  
Thelma Comer Morris, Lake County  
David P. Muse, Plainfield, IN  
Esda H. Myers, Danville, IN  
Nancy J. Norton, Lake County  
Helen Petscher, Aurora, IN  
Phyllis Gamble Robinson,  
Crown Point, IN  
Mary Ann Rowe, Wolcottville, IN  
Beatrice Stapon, Lake County  
Jerry G. Stephens, Kokomo, IN  
Mildred Taylor, Dale, IN  
Ramone Walker, Spencer County  
Carolyn White, Williamsport, IN  
Imogene Winslow, Kokomo, IN  
Junella Wornhoff, Lake County

### **IN HONOR OF**

J. B. Stephens & Marjorie Jarrett, Greenfield, IN—100th Birthday  
Mary Hawkins, Rockville, IN—80th Birthday

### **ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Bartholomew County RTA  
Blackford County RTA  
Brown County RTA  
Dearborn County RTA  
Delta Kappa Gamma  
Dubois County RTA  
Fountain-Warren RTA  
Hamilton County RTA  
Hancock County RTA

Hendricks County RTA  
Henry County RTA  
Howard County RTA  
Jackson County RTA  
Jay County RTA  
Johnson County RTA  
Knox County RTA  
Lake County RTA  
Morgan County RTA

Orange County RTA  
Parke-Vermillion RTA  
Pulaski County RTA  
Rush County RTA  
Shelby County RTA  
Spencer County RTA  
Vigo County RTA  
Warrick County RTA



**ASSOCIATION MEMBER  
BENEFITS ADVISORS**

***You Have Access to Exceptional Benefits!***

Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) has been endorsed by the Indiana Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) to make the benefits listed below available to you. To learn more about any of these products, please visit [www.amba.info](http://www.amba.info) or call 800.258.7041. You can also find information on the IRTA web site [www.retiredteachers.org](http://www.retiredteachers.org)

**Endorsed Benefits:**

- Long Term Care/Home Health Care Insurance
- First Diagnosis Cancer Insurance
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Final Expense Whole Life Insurance
- Tax-Deferred Annuity
- Dental Insurance
- Vision Plan
- Medical Air Transportation Services (MASA)

Recently, you should have received your dental & vision enrollment packet. If you did not, please contact AMBA at the number listed below to request one. Refer to the packet for full plan details.

**The Dental Plan Features:**

- Freedom to use your own dentist
- Dental Rewards
- Rates guaranteed through December 2008!

**The Vision Plan Features:**

- Exams covered in full every 12 months (*co-pay applies*)
- Lenses covered in full every 12 months (*co-pay applies*)

[www.amba.info](http://www.amba.info)

1.800.258.7041

**You are invited to join the 11th Annual  
IRTA GOLF SCRAMBLE  
to benefit the IRTA Foundation**

**Monday, July 28, 2008**

**Smock Golf Course**

**3910 E. County Line Road**

**Indianapolis IN 46237**

**[www.smockgolf.com](http://www.smockgolf.com)**

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

Shotgun start will be at 8:00 a.m.

Lunch immediately following golf.

**NUMEROUS PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!**

Adults only. Entry fee of \$60.00 per person includes green fees, cart, lunch and a \$10.00 donation to the IRTA Foundation. You must be a paid Active or Associate member of IRTA to enter. Teams will be formed by the Golf Committee based on handicap or golf scores. You will be notified of your team placement on the day of the Scramble. Further information will be sent to entrants after payment of entry fee.

Please detach with your check payable to IRTA Golf Scramble and mail to:

IRTA Golf Scramble  
150 W. Market St., Suite 610  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2812

**Entry Deadline  
July 14, 2008**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

My handicap is \_\_\_\_\_. If I have no handicap,  
I usually shoot between: 70-80 \_\_\_\_\_ 90-100 \_\_\_\_\_  
80-90 \_\_\_\_\_ 100 plus \_\_\_\_\_

# The Bulletin Board

(USPS 393-150)

Postmaster:

Send address changes to:

Indiana Retired Teachers Association

150 W. Market Street, Suite 610

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2812

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

**Vol. 39, No. 3**

**Spring, 2008**

## Make a Contribution to the IRTA Foundation

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enclosing a contribution to help the Foundation provide eight scholarships to outstanding Indiana college sophomores or juniors who plan to become teachers.

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to IRTA Foundation and mail to IRTA Foundation, 150 W. Market Street, Suite 610, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2812. The IRTA Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. The gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

IRTA Office.....(317) 637-7481  
Toll free (outside of Indianapolis area).....1-888-454-9333  
e-mail.....irta@retiredteachers.org  
website.....www.retiredteachers.org  
Fax.....(317) 637-9671

ISTRF Retirement Benefits and Checks.....(317) 232-3860  
Toll free (outside of Indianapolis area).....1-888-286-3544  
e-mail.....trf@trf.in.gov  
website.....www.in.gov/trf

Association Member Benefits Advisors  
Group Insurance Policies.....1-800-258-7041

ISTRF Group Health Insurance Plan —  
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.....1-800-368-9354

## IRTA Officers and Board of Directors

2007-2008

### President

Eugene Wease

### President-Elect

Nancy Tolson

### Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Kraft

### Past President

Patricia A. Burden

### Directors

Don Franklin, Area 1  
Carol Grieser, Area 2  
Elaine Brown, Area 3  
Roleen Pickard, Area 4  
Charles Dilk, Area 5  
Phyllis Wesler, Area 6  
Jerry B. Noland, Area 7  
A. Dennis Bourquein, Area 8

### IRTA Executive Director

Ralph D. Ayres

### IRTA Office Staff

Angie Kappus,  
Financial Officer  
Glenn O. Hatmaker,  
Executive Assistant  
Linnie Harris,  
Membership Secretary